A1 Cont

adhesive deposited on the board. This pattern significantly reduces the amount of adhesive resin required for bonding boards together.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 10, and 15-17 without prejudice.

Please amend the following claims without prejudice. A marked-up version of the amended claims is provided as an attachment to this response.

SUB B1

1. **(Amended)** A method of preparing a preform for a RTM molding process comprising the steps of:

forming a layer of reinforcing fibers;

A2

applying a patterned discontinuous layer of a tackifier resin to at least one side of the layer of reinforcing fibers, wherein a predetermined quantity of the tackifier resin being forced into a number of the fibers; and

curing the tackifier resin.

A3

11. **(Amended)** The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of preparing the tackified reinforcing fibers for shipping.

SUB B2

18. **(Amended)** A method of preparing a fiber-reinforced composite article for use in a gas turbine engine, comprising the steps of:

forming a layer of reinforcing fibers;

applying a patterned discontinuous layer of adhesive tackifier resin in a predetermined amount to at least one side of the layer of reinforcing fibers to form a tacky ply, wherein a portion of the predetermined amount of the tackifier resin being forced into a number of the fibers;

A4

assembling a plurality of the plys to form a preform, the predetermined amount of adhesive tackifier resin being sufficient to maintain the assembled plies in a shape of the preform;

placing the preform in a mold; then

injecting a second resin in liquid form into the mold to form a continuous matrix of resin